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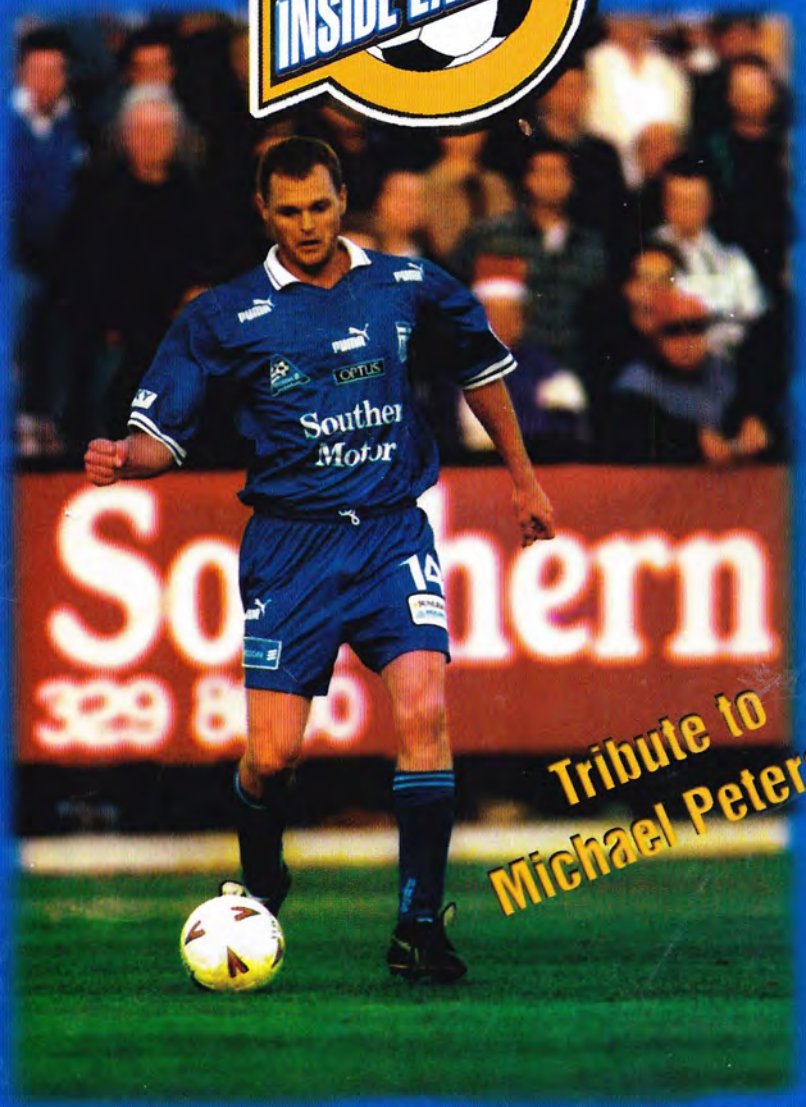

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 4
South Melbourne
vs
UTS Olympic
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MESSAGE FROM GEORGE VASILOPOULOS

It is very exciting to see South Melbourne Soccer Club having such a promising start to the 1997/98 Ericsson Cup season, and I am confident that this success will continue, until we have booked ourselves a spot in the Grand Final.

This home game is proudly dedicated to one of our long-serving, loyal and committed players, who has honored us with his skill and flair on the park and his leadership and good humour off the park. I am sure the players and supporters will make this day an unforgettable experience for him.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Club, and together with all our supporters, we thank you Mike Petersen.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you our supporters, for the exemplary behaviour you showed at our last home game against the Melbourne Knights. It was a testing time for everyone involved with the Club and we should all be proud of the fact that no unfavourable incidents occurred on the day. Once again, I commend you all for that effort.

Special mention must also be made of our captain, Paul Trimboli, who will play his 300th game next week against Marconi. We will all get the chance to celebrate with Paul at our next home game in two weeks.

Michael Petkovic has also reached a milestone, playing his 50th game today. Congratulations to Michael, and may he achieve many more milestones with us.

Once again, thank you and let's all give Michael an unforgettable day.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COACH

This weekend, we pay a small tribute to one of our all time greats, Michael Petersen. It gives people who are involved with the Club, from supporters to committee and staff, a chance to say thank you to a player who gave his heart and soul to South.

I've already paid my tributes to this great player and am also lucky enough to be able to tap into his wealth of knowledge on my coaching staff. No doubt his great contribution will continue.

Mike is not comfortable with this type of occasion as he hates all the attention, but I believe it's important that he gives the soul of the Club - the supporters - a chance to acknowledge his contribution, and he in turn theirs.

I know one of my greatest regrets was that Steve Blair and I weren't able to say thanks to the supporters, as our last game was played in the Youth team, trying to get back from injury. In time, Mike will look back on this day with great pride, and you, the supporter will have said thanks to a great servant of your Club. **Make it a special day!**

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We've gold-en soil and wealth for toil, our home is girt by sea;
Our land a-bounds in na-ture's gifts, of beau-ty rich and rare,
In his-t'ry's page, let ev'-ry stage Ad-vance Aus-tra-lia fair;
In joy-ful strains then let us sing, Ad-vance Aus-tra-lia fair.

Be-neath our ra-diant South-ern Cross, we'll toil with hearts and hands,
To make this Comm-on-wealth of ours, re-nowned of all the lands;
For those who've come a-cross the seas, we've bound-less plains to share,
With cou-rage let us all combine to Ad-vance Aus-tra-lia fair;
In joy-ful strains then let us sing, Ad-vance Aus-tra-lia fair.

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BEING A LAKER'S LEGEND

Every club around the world, regardless of the sport or the club's notoriety has them. They've usually been around the club for many years, doing many extraordinary things along the way, things that grow with the legend every year. Unfortunately in Victoria when we think of sporting legends we tend to think of Aussie Rules legends such as John Coleman, Ted Whitten or in recent years Gary Ablett.

When you think of South Melbourne Lakers Soccer Club, you think of success, history and its loyal army of supporters. When you have this combination at a club you can be sure there have been a few legends in the past. People such as Bobby Russel, Doug Brown, and Jim Pirgolios to name a few. Who will ever forget Steve Blair's 300th game, Paul Wade's last game or Ange Postecoglou lifting the '91 championship cup?

I remember as a 5 year old at Middle Park, my father pointed out Jimmy Armstrong and told me he was a legend and to this day, despite the fact I never saw him kick a ball (other than in the odd legends game), I treat him as such. This is what its all about when a great player, who has shown loyalty and dignity, hangs up the boots. The fans automatically make him a legend. Recently Michael Petersen bowed to chronic knee problems and decided to retire. It was a sad day for all Lakers fans as we would no longer see one of the greatest midfielders this country has seen give another one of those golden passes. We will always have great memories of Mickey P; who will ever forget the long ball to Peter Tsolakis at Summers St which resulted in that Trimboli chip goal or the quick thinking in the '91 Prelim' Final in Adelaide which put us into the Grand Final. But speaking about that Grand Final, that strangely enough is what I remember most about Mickey P, the look on his face after his penalty shot was saved, or the disgust he showed by kicking the water bottle after Joe Palatsides missed our third consecutive penalty, to the look of ecstasy when we somehow clinched the title, this all showed his love for South Melbourne and how significant it was for him to win the championship playing in the blue and white. Unfortunately he never again played in another championship side but lets hope this year he will assist Ange Postecoglou in taking the Lakers all the way.

For the modern day soccer player club loyalty is slowly going out the window, money and individual success are playing a bigger role each day. The current SML side is full of potential Mickey P's, they may be the players who will win the championships and or play 300 plus A-League games. Today is a great chance to show them what respect a SML legend demands so that they too will want to become a major part of the SML family. So when Mickey P does his lap of honour cheer to your hearts content, let everybody in the country know how proud you are to be an SML fan and how proud you are to have seen a true champion play for your club for ten years.

Thanks for the memories Mickey P, your on-field performances will be talked about for many years to come. All the SM Lakers fans around the country wish you a great retirement.

LAKESIDE: INSIDE THE CRAB

Michael Petersen has played a major role in the SML midfield since his transfer from Brunswick in the late 1980's. For the last few years his illustrious career has been plagued by injuries and it was a bad knee that restricted him to the odd appearance in the last 2 seasons. Early last season he had had enough and announced his retirement, only to be coaxed back for one last go. Unfortunately try as he did, his knee was unable to cope and he retired just before the start of this season. This interview was conducted a week before his retirement, therefore some of it does not fit into recent events.

PK: You have been known as one of the most skilful midfielders Australia has seen, yet you only played a handful of games for Australia under Eddie Thompson. Why do you think this is the case?
MP: I had a decent run, there was an inquiry and I gave evidence there and I think that threw me out politically. But that's life, as far as I was concerned I told the truth and from that time onwards I was overlooked at selection time. It's ironic because I felt I was playing my best soccer at the time and I wasn't getting picked. But that's sport that's life, no regrets.
PK: It has been well documented that you played together as a junior with other Souths greats, at Port Melbourne, such as Joe Palatsides and Mehmet Durakovic. What was it like?
MP: We were very lucky, I suppose I was very fortunate to be with such a skilled bunch. I believe that there was 5 of us that ended up representing Australia at senior level, which is great when you consider we all came from the same club team and same age level. It gave us a great grounding for senior level, we all worked hard, we all enjoyed our football and that's the underlying message for success.
PK: When was it that you and the other boys realised you were talented enough to make a good fist at a soccer career?
MP: Being a professional footballer is a bit more than just having the talent, you've got to have the mind to go with it. I think we all got snapped up by National League clubs by the age of 19, you only really make your mark once your given the opportunity to show what you can do. Mehmet (Durakovic) probably didn't establish himself until he was 23 or 24. I was a bit lucky I got a break at Juventus and won a championship when I was 19 or 20, so it happened a bit earlier for me.
PK: You made your way to one of the greatest clubs in the land, AJAX Amsterdam. How did this come about? And can you tell us about your time there and why you came back to Australia?
MP: I got invited to go over there in '86 via a video tape, that my father had passed over to a trainer at AJAX, who he new quite well. He showed it to Johan Cruyff and he said he saw something in me and he welcomed me over for a four week trial. Consequently in that four weeks, I was on fire at the time, I did some good things, played in a few good games and I was lucky enough to get signed up. I signed up on a three year contract, but I suppose in hindsight I was a bit young and a bit immature, didn't have the head for it and after a year I got home sick and I just walked out. But certainly even to go over there and even have a years experience, at the time there were some big names there, Van Basten, Rijkard, Winter, Bergcamp and I am very privileged to have been in their company and learn a few things off them. That's kept me in good stead.. If you are surrounded by that type of company you are aware of what the best are doing and you tend to keep that at the back of your mind and you set certain standards for yourself. Unfortunately I didn't last, whilst I try not to have any regrets in my career that would come close to one, because having 2 or 3 years there would have been a better experience. In my time there we won the Euro Cup-Winners Cup, which was quite a big achievement, I was a squad member, I didn't actually play but still it was a bit of a buzz.
PK: Over the years you have been one of the most loved yet also one of the most maligned players at SML. There has always been some silly people saying that you have faked injuries. What do you have to say to these people?
MP: I've had a few bizarre injuries. I suppose all I would say is, I wouldn't profess to having the best attitude in my 10 years at the club, I'm the first to admit that. However faking injuries, what I would say to people before they were to comment on anything, not just about sports men, is to get the correct information before you make an assessment.
PK: You were part of the 1991 G.F side that beat the Melb. Knights. Can you tell us a bit about the day and how it compared to winning the championship with Brunswick in 1985?

MP: Both were very special occasions, however the SM v Knights game, some will argue and for me to say this it means I haven't had much of a life, but I can seriously say that it was the best moment in my lifetime and to this day it holds true that it was just a phenomenal experience for myself. It was an emotional roller coaster, not just for the players but for the supporters and I suppose the fans made the occasion even more special by packing out Olympic Park. Just the way we won it coming back from the brink and to do it with the guys we had, we had a sensational team spirit there and with Ferenc Puscus being a fantastic bloke and Jimmy Pirgolios. To do it with SM, because the one thing I love about this club, is that it is the only club that has a history about it and to this day people still talk about it and that's a great feeling even to make a little mark in the game it's still a mark.
PK: As far as the standard of players is concerned, when do you feel the National League was at its best?
MP: It goes through peaks and troughs, there's a lot of good things and bad things coming at the moment, we've become an export nation, so it does effect our standard. Overall I'm absolutely totally impressed with the development of the young boys at the moment. I can honestly put my neck on the line and say in the 10 years I've been at SM, the current crop of players is the most talented that SM has ever assembled.
PK: Who has been the greatest influence on your career?
MP: I'd like to think that I'm wise enough to take a bit of everybody, good or bad in my career. My mentor would have to be my father because he was a professional footballer and in my early years I think I had an early advantage in that he could asses my game objectively. He represented Australia and played in Holland. Having said that, playing under the likes of Cryuff, Puscus, Margaritis and even Ange he's certainly the new breed of manager who is adding different things, innovative ideas so I'm learning from him as well.
PK: Where do you see your role in soccer when you retire?
MP: I would like to think I have something to offer in a managerial sense at grass roots, but at the end of the day I would love to stay at SM in any sort of capacity that they wanted me in. But that is certainly not a short term thing because with Ange & Carl at the moment, I totally endorse the club and Ange & Carl, I think they're fantastic, I certainly hope that the club believes that the stability is there and that they can have a good long run, like a Kevin Sheedy type of era.
PK: You have developed a close relationship with Con Boutsianis. What do you two get up to when you're out on the town? Have you become a bit of a disco king as well?
MP: Balance will have to be the key word here and I would say the boys have been known to let their hair down on occasions, I believe it's healthy and if your putting in a hard week and you've had a good result it's good team camaraderie to go out and let your hair down. Con and a few of the boys like a good time and as far as that goes I could possibly take them under my wing in a soccer sense, but they've certainly taken me under their wing when it comes to going out.

Note: It's great to see Mickey's wish was granted and he was appointed assistant coach of SML straight after his retirement. We are however a little bit concerned about his defence strategy!

South Melbourne SC: The Beginning (part 2)

South Melbourne Soccer Club: 1960

- 1st Division North Champions
- Dropped only one competition point
- Scored 79 goals and conceded only 11
- Reached the Semi-final of the Dockerty Cup
- Semi-finalist of the Harry Armstrong Cup
- 9-0 win Vs Corio, 10-1 win Vs Moonee Ponds

South Melbourne won the First Division North championship by an incredible 12 points. The club was undefeated that year drawing only once...3-3 with Corio. It collected 35 points and scored 79 goals.

Mr Theo Marmaris, the club President, organised the signing of players from Greece. 50 players replied to advertisements in Greece, these were whittled down to 10 successful applicants who then made their way to Melbourne. At the time it was the biggest number of overseas players ever imported into Australia and the airfares alone cost over 1500 pounds.

It's players that season included ;

George Papadopoulos, Peter Tzaponis, Chris Pikoulas, John Margaritis, Savas Salambasidis, Harry Vamvakas, Tony Karagiannis, Jim Mantarakis, John Hadzigeorgiou, Chris Georgousis, Stefan Fortumanos, G. Karpouzas, T. Xanthopoulos, V. Kourkoulakos, I. Ieremiadis, J. Tsolakis, Terry Budgeon, Nevros.

South Melbourne had so much talent that year that it also won the reserve grade from Coburg and Sunshine City and reached the semi-finals of the under 14 J.J Liston Cup before being beaten by the strong North Sunshine 8-2.

Round One Fixtures

Croatia Vs South Melbourne
University Vs Coburg
Sicillia Vs Corio (Geelong)
Maccabi Vs Moonee Ponds
Sunshine City Vs Fiorentina

Geelong Vs South Melbourne Match Report

South Melbourne won the toss and the game opened at a fast pace at Corio Oval today. Geelong forced an early corner, but it was punched clear by South Melbourne goalie, Karpousas. After a goal mouth scramble, a good cross from Nevros was well headed by Hadzigeorgiou, who put South into the lead after 10 minutes.

The smooth combination of South Melbourne was giving them the better of the midfield play but good work by Geelong defenders, Raffay and Genpari broke up most attacking moves. South Melbourne centre-half Kourkoulakos was prominent and his powerful clearances kept his team in attack. South were playing with four forwards in attack with centre-forward, Hadzigeorgiou lying well back in the Don Revie style. Justbforethe break, a long drive by Fortamanus was brilliantly turned over the bar by Geelong keeper, Raimondi.

Half-time : Geelong 0 - South Melbourne 1

After 15 minutes of the second half, South went further ahead when Terry Budgeon coolly put the ball past Raimondi from a pass from Papadopoulos. Five minutes later Nevros scored a brilliant goal from an acute angle following brilliant work again from Papadopoulos.

Final Score : Geelong 0 - South Melbourne 3

YOUTH TEAMS REPORT

TEAM LISTS

	YOUTH TEAM		ROCKETS
1	Theodore Patsiotis	1	Frank Manganis
2	Socratis Pappas	3	Phillip Klathas
3	Louie Rozanitis	4	Adem Kose
4	Zivanovic	5	Nondas Manolitsis
5	Robert Liparoti	6	Ozan Kara
6	Tas Psonis	7	Julian Zach
7	Gary Kostakis	8	Leigh Squillacioti
8	Kon Karasavidis	9	Erhan Bayraktar
10	James Kasikakis	11	AytacYilmaz
11	Sam Klidonas	12	Joseph Falcone
12	Tas Tragakis	13	Armando De Oliveira
13	Evan Papadopoulos	14	Stuart Jones
14	John Tambouras	15	Christhian Barra
15	Jim Drossos	16	Steve Hatzi
		18	Robert Murone

LEAGUE LADDER
SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	2	2	0	0	13	2	6
Carlton	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Bulleen	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Gippsland Falcons	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Heidelberg United	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Bentleigh Greens	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Altona Magic	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
VIS	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
South Melbourne	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Albury-Wodonga	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
South Melbourne Rockets	1	0	0	1	1	10	0

ROUND 3 RESULTS

Bentleigh Greens	v	Gippsland Falcons	0 - 1
VIS	v	Altona Magic	1 - 2
Albury Wodonga	v	Carlton	0 - 1
South Melb. Rockets	v	Melb. Knights	1 - 10
Bulleen Inter	v	Heidelberg Utd	1 - 2
Bye		South Melbourne	

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Sat Oct 25	Carlton	v	Rockets	Optus Oval	11.30am
Sun Oct 26	Youth	v	Bentleigh Greens	Bob Jane Stadium	3.30pm

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

Sun Nov 2	Rockets	v	Albury Wodonga	Bob Jane Stadium	5.00pm
Mon Nov 3	Bulleen Int	v	Youth	Veneto Park	7.00pm

OUR VISITORS

UTS OLYMPIC - The closed season has been anything but quiet for Olympic. A new Coach, virtually a new squad, a move to the Sydney Football Stadium as well as the Club's ownership dispute has kept UTSO fans busy during the winter months. Last season's ninth finish was a bitter disappointment to a Club that harboured high hopes of improving on a fabulous 1995-96 season where the team finished only one point away from claiming the minor premiership.

Geoff Harcombe has taken over as Coach, while the additions to the playing squad give the team a real Marconi feel. Bob Catlin, Jean Paul de Marigny and Eric Hristodoulou, at his third Club in three years, have all made the journey across Sydney from Bossley Park. In addition to the former Marconi trio, the Club has purchased George Sorras and Ante Juric from Canberra as well as seeing the return of prodigal son Kris Kalantzis from Greece. The new season also sees the return of Kimon Taliadoros, after a season in Melbourne with Collingwood. Kimon helped form an exciting attack for UTS Olympic in 1995-96 alongside Norman Tome and Kris Trajanovski. Unfortunately for Olympic, the return of Taliadoros has coincided with the departure of Trajanovski to Adelaide City.
Trajanovski, the Club's top scorer in 1995-96, was only the first of several players to leave the Club during the off season. Anthony Franken has headed west to join the Glory, whilst experienced right-back David Barrettt in one of several players to move to Sydney United. He was followed to Edensor Park by a whole posse of Olympic stars such as Abbas Saad, Steve Refenes and ex-coach David Mitchell. In addition, left-back Ivan Zelic, who represented Australia at the recent World Youth Cup in Malaysia, has joined Canberra.

The massive change in personnel has given the Club's youngsters a chance to shine. The rewards of the Club's youth policy were immediate. In their first League game of the season against Marconi, debutante defender Danny Barbalace had a hand in 15 year old schoolboy Nick Carle's spectacular last-minute winner. The third player making his debut in the game was midfielder Hussein Jomaa. Naturally the use of so many inexperienced players, with several others waiting on the sidelines, will bring with it inconsistency; evident in round two where Olympic slumped to a 3-1 defeat to the Adelaide Sharks. Nevertheless, the Club should be commended for giving youth its chance. It should at least ensure an exciting season for Olympic fans.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

PETER TSEKINIS - It's only four years ago that Tsekinis was playing for Australia in the World Youth Cup, but in that time he has matured into one of the league's best midfielders. He now has the added responsibility of the captaincy and it's to him that the young Olympic players will look to for leadership.

BRETT EMERTON - Brett is one of the most exciting young prospects in the country, impressing many observers at the 1997 World Youth Cup in Malaysia. A tall. strong winger with enormous skill and great dribbling ability, Emmerton was trialling in Europe during the winter but fortunately for us, will be parading his skills in the A-League this season.

NORMAN TOME - Norman was Olympic's top scorer in 1996-97 with 12 goals, following the nine he scored in 1995-96. The departure of Trajanovski to Adelaide City has placed even more responsibility on Tome. Considering his recent rate of improvement, it's a challenge the pact striker should thrive on.

PREVIOUS RESULTS

SOUTH MELBOURNE V UTS OLYMPIC

Played: 39 Won: 20 Drawn: 11 Lost: 8
Goals For: 62 Against: 41

	H	A		H	A
1977	1-1	2-0	1989	2-0	3-0
1978	1-1	2-1	1989/90	2-1	0-1
1979	0-3	1-1	1990/91	2-0	1-2
1981	1-1	2-2	1991/92	1-3	0-1
1982	2-1	2-1	1992/93	3-1	3-1
1983	3-0	2-0	1993/94	0-0	1-1
1984	2-1 (Grand Final)	2-1	1994/95	1-1	0-1
1987	2-2	2-2	1995/96	2-1 2-1	2-4
1988	0-0	2-1	1996/97	4-1	2-1

- **South Melbourne score is first.**

THIS WEEK'S GAMES
Round 4

Fri	Oct 24	7.30pm	Sydney Utd	V	Brisbane
Sat	Oct 25	3.00pm	Carlton	V	Adelaide City
Sun	Oct 26	4.00pm	Perth	V	Melb Knights
Sun	Oct 26	6.00pm	Gippsland	V	Marconi
Sun	Oct 26	6.30pm	Wollongong	V	Newcastle
Sun	Oct 26	3.00pm	Adel Sharks	V	Canberra

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES
Round 5

Fri	Oct 31	7.30pm	Newcastle	V	Perth
Sat	Nov 1	7.00pm	Canberra	V	Adel. City
Sat	Nov 1	7.00pm	Brisbane	V	Carlton
Sat	Nov 1	7.00pm	Marconi	V	Sth Melb
Sun	Nov 2	6.00pm	Melb Knights	V	Syd United
Sun	Nov 2	7.30pm	Adel Sharks	V	Gippsland
Sun	Nov 2	6.30pm	UTS Olumpic	V	Wollongong

1997/98 ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	POINTS
South Melbourne	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Sydney United	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Carlton	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Marconi Fairfield	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
UTS Olympic	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Newcastle Breakers	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Melbourne Knights	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Gippsland Falcons	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Adelaide City	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Adelaide Sharks	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Perth Glory	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Brisbane Strikers	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Wollongong City	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Canberra Cosmos	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

South Melbourne Stats Vs Melbourne Knights - Round 2

EP = Effective Passes
EF = Effective Free-kick
T = Tackles
TB = Through Balls
IP = Ineffective Passes
NT = Interceptions
BL = Blocks
AS = Assist
EH = Effective Header
EC = Effective Cross
CL = Clearances
SOT = Shots On Target

Petkovic - 8 Saves, 3 CL
De Amicis - 47 EP, 9 IP, 5 T, 4 INT, 5 CL
Blatsis - 34 EP, 4 IP, 6 EH, 3 EF, 4 T
Orlic - 31 EP, 2 IP, 5 EH, 6 T
Clarkson - 47 EP, 4 IP, 2 EH, 3 T, 2 EC, 2 BL, 1 CL
Damianos - 36 EP, 9 IP, 3 EH, 2 T, 2 INT, 2 SOT
Boutsianis - 36 EP, 4 IP, 3 EC, 5 IC, 2 INT
Panopoulos - 14 EP, 0 IP, 1 T, 1 CL, 1 BL
Anastasiadis - 29 EP, 3 IP, 2 EH, 1 AS, 1 CL
Trimboli - 35 EP, 9 IP, 6 EH, 2 TB, 3 EC
Curcija - 18 EP, 7 IP, 3 EH

Subs

Goutzoulis - 6 EP, 1 IP, 1 EH
Coveny - 4 EP, 0 IP, 2 CL
Baser - 4 EP, 3 IP

SOUTH MELBOURNE

1. Michael Petkovic
2. Steve Iosifidis
3. Fausto De Amicis
4. Nick Orlic
5. Con Blatsis
6. David Clarkson
7. Steve Panopoulos
8. Vaughan Coveny
9. Paul Trimboli
10. Michael Curcija
11. Billy Damianos
12. Con Boutsianis
13. Jason Polak
15. Goran Lozanovski
16. Tansell Baser
17. John Anastasiadis
18. Robert Liparoti
19. George Goutzoulis
20. Chris Jones
21. John Tambouras

UTS OLYMPIC

1. George Bouhoutsos
2. Paul Carter
3. Adam Ciantar
4. Ante Juric
5. Scott Baillie
6. Eric Hristodoulou
7. Norman Tome
8. Peter Tsekenis
9. Derek Poimer
10. Brettt Emerton
11. Chris Kalantzis
12. Kimon Taliadoros
13. Jean Paul De Marigny
14. Walter Ardone
15. Elias Augerinos
16. Kain Rastall
17. Danny Barbalace
18. Steve karavatakis
19. Nick Carle
20 Bob Catlin
21. Hussein Jomaa
22. Sam Larocca
23. Huseyin Bayhan

Shots at Goal :
Corners :
Free Kicks :
Offsides :

Referee:
Crowd:
Weather:

Shots at Goal:
Corners :
Free Kicks :
Offsides :

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•	World Cup Qualifier Soccer Package Dinner, Reserved GoldPass seating, transport to and from MCG $150.00	Sat Nov 29
•	Members Christmas Party Sports Bar	Fri Dec 12
•	Golf Day	Feb TBA
•	Grand Gala Auction Sports Bar	Mar TBA
•	Annual Ball & Presentation Night	Jun TBA

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LAKERS ON THE INTERNET

Abdul Nazri, Malaysia

"I saw the homepage for South Melbourne team and thought it looks fabulous. Good work to the team!"

"I would like to ask for your assistance here. You see, a pal of mine is visiting Melbourne soon and she'll be there for about 2 weeks. I am asking her to buy for me a souvenir from Melbourne in form of a soccer jersey merchandise of the South Melbourne team. If I'm not mistaken, it's blue in colour. Could you advise me which shops she should go to and roughly how much the jersey will cost?"

Lazarus Papasavas, Melbourne

"May I just congratulate Mike Peterson on such a marvellous career for both club and country. His ability to decide a match with one telling long-ball was unmatched at South Melbourne and will be greatly missed. It is pleasing to see that South Melbourne has retained his services in another capacity. His sound tactical mind may lift South Melbourne to the championship this season."

Kenny Sewards, 30, Liverpool, England

"I am a mad soccer fan from England and the Lakers are my team in Australia. Apart from my Liverpool FA Cup videos & league games my most treasured possesion is my tape of South Melbourne Vs Melbourne Knights grand final in the 1990/91 season. Mickey Petersen and Trimmers are big time cult figures in our humble adobe. I have never been to Australia and I hope to travel there in the next couple of years to see the mighty Blue & Whites live. I have heard the Lakers away strip is bottle green. Which is fantastic as you know because the Liverpool away strip is the same colour..but the home "Sheffield Wednesday" strip is another story! hehe."

"We got reports on the BBC here on Australia Vs NZ at the Bob Jane Stadium. It is the first time I have seen South's new ground and it looked great. It was reported in the press over here that the stadium is named after a car tyre salesman. Wow, he must have paid alot of pounds for the naming rights!"

"I must admit I still get a tear in my eye when I think of our old stadium Middle Park, I have a small b/w picture of it on my wall, next to Anfield. Just like to say GO LAKERS!!"

Kathy, 19, Sunshine,

"I'd like to congratulate the Hellas team for trying their best but I'd especially like to congratulate the sexiest soccer player in the team BILL DAMIANOS for scoring those two goals against Melbourne Knights!!!" Keep up the hard work honey and i love you babe.

Love from your biggest fan in the world , Kathy D.

Marc Bogman, m.bogman@geac.com

I surfed onto your South Melbourne page. Looking good!! I live in the Netherlands and a big soccer fan. We don't hear very much about Australian soccer in Europe.The only thing we see are the Australian players in the Netherlands (Graham Arnold, Aurelio Vidmar, Tony Vidmar, Jason van Blerk a.o.)

Are there any South Melbourne souvenirs available? I collect the so called mini-kits (miniature of the team's outfit, on a hanger with a sucker to put in your car) but I don't know if these things are to be bought somewhere in Australia.

Hope to hear from you sometime

1997-98 SENIOR SQUAD

JOHN ANASTASIADIS

Position	Midfielder
Born	13-8-68
Height	179cm
Weight	76kg
NSL Games	
Last Club	Paok
Internationals	Youth
Debut	1997
Nickname	
Shirt No	17

TANSELL BASER

Position	Defender
Born	17.4.78
Height	190cm
Weight	75kg
NSL Games	25
Last Club	Broadmeadows
Internationals	Youth
Debut	1995
Nickname	
Shirt No	16

CON BLATSIS

Position	Defender
Born	6.7.77
Height	190cm
Weight	86kg
NSL Games	37
Last Club	AIS
Internationals	Youth
Debut	1995
Nickname	*Blats*
Shirt No	5

CON BOUTSIANIS

Position	Midfielder
Born	27.12.71
Height	5'10"
Weight	75kg
NSL Games	37
Last Club	Collingwood
Internationals	
Debut	1988
Nickname	*Bootsi*
Shirt No	12

DAVID CLARKSON

Position	Midfielder
Born	1.2.68
Height	176cm
Weight	70kg
NSL Games	108
Last Club	Happy Valley HK
Internationals	
Debut	1996
Nickname	*Clarky*
Shirt No	6

VAUGHAN COVENY

Position	Striker
Born	13.12.71
Height	6'2"
Weight	85kg
NSL Games	116
Last Club	Wollongong
Internationals	New Zealand
Debut	1995
Nickname	*Kiwi*
Shirt No	8

MICHAEL CURCIJA

Position	Striker
Born	27.6.77
Height	183cm
Weight	80kg
NSL Games	32
Last Club	AIS
Internationals	Youth
Debut	1995
Nickname	
Shirt No	10

BILL DAMIANOS

Position	Midfielder
Born	18.4.77
Height	174cm
Weight	70kg
NSL Games	57
Last Club	Sunshine GC
Internationals	Youth
Debut	1994
Nickname	
Shirt No	11

FAUSTO DE AMICIS

Position	Defender
Born	26.6.68
Height	170cm
Weight	65kg
NSL Games	139
Last Club	Melbourne Knights
Internationals	Socceroo
Debut	1996
Nickname	
Shirt No	3

GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS

Position	Midfielder
Born	18.1.78
Height	180cm
Weight	69kg
NSL Games	2
Last Club	Bentleigh Greens
Internationals	
Debut	1996
Nickname	*Shaggy*
Shirt No	19

PLAYER PROFILES

STEVE IOSIFIDIS

Position	Midfielder
Born	28.12.73
Height	184cm
Weight	76kg
NSL Games	37
Last Club	Heidelberg UTD
Internationals	
Debut	1996
Nickname	*Yosa*
Shirt No	2

MICHAEL PETKOVIC

Position	Goalkeeper
Born	16.7.76
Height	6'3"
Weight	80kg
NSL Games	41
Last Club	Perth Kangaroos
Internationals	Olyroos
Debut	1995
Nickname	*Petka*
Shirt No	1

ROBERT LIPAROTI

Position	Defender
Born	2.4.78
Height	6'4"
Weight	85kg
NSL Games	1
Last Club	Bulleen
Internationals	
Debut	1996
Nickname	*Lipa*
Shirt No	18

JASON POLAK

Position	Midfielder
Born	9.1.68
Height	5'11"
Weight	80kg
NSL Games	183
Last Club	Newcastle Breakers
Internationals	Socceroo
Debut	1992
Nickname	
Shirt No	13

GORAN LOZANOVSKI

Position	Midfielder
Born	11.1.74
Height	180cm
Weight	86kg
NSL Games	
Last Club	Collingwood
Internationals	Socceroo
Debut	1997
Nickname	Loza, Gibbo
Shirt No	15

PAUL TRIMBOLI

Position	Striker
Born	25.2.69
Height	173cm
Weight	74kg
NSL Games	290
Last Club	Sunshine GC
Internationals	Socceroo
Debut	1988
Nickname	*Trimmers*
Shirt No	9

NICK ORLIC

Position	Defender
Born	6.8.70
Height	6'3"
Weight	92kg
NSL Games	98
Last Club	UTS Olympic
Internationals	
Debut	1996
Nickname	
Shirt No	4

Manager/Coach:
Ange Postecoglou

Assistant Coach
Carl Halford

STEVE PANOPOULOS

Position	Midfielder
Born	23.6.75
Height	169cm
Weight	68kg
NSL Games	77
Last Club	Oakleigh
Internationals	
Debut	1992
Nickname	*Pana*
Shirt No	7

Assistant Coach
Mike Petersen

OUR LEGACY

I remember as a youngster traveling to grounds like Schintler Reserve, home of Footscray JUST, Olympic Village, home of Heidelberg Alexander, Connor Reserve, home of Preston Makedonia and Olympic Park, where Juventus used to play. These arenas held some memorable clashes between our team Hellas and their respective sides. Some great players were on show from these teams and packed stadiums were guaranteed whenever any of these sides clashed. Players like Branko Buljevic, Gary Cole, Zarko Odzakov, Dennis Boland, Yakka Banovic and many many more. I remember them all as I'm sure do a lot of you who have followed South for many years. I know these memories will be passed down to my children, to show them how our game has developed and also to make sure that these great Clubs and players are not forgotten.

I often talk to supporters of these other great Clubs and they remind me of the great clashes and of the days when they beat us. Those were their **GLORY DAYS**. I sit and I listen because I know how important it is for them to talk about those days. It is all they have!

Every time I drive past a now derelict Schintler Reserve, I get shivers. When I watch the Premier League and see Heidelberg and Preston play in front of 500 supporters, it makes me sick to my stomach. It is then I realize that I don't one day want to be talking to my children about a Club that no longer exists, or is a pale shadow of its former self. I remember these Clubs and they were all GREAT CLUBS, and I'm sure they felt as indestructible as we do now. Yes, we've managed to survive whilst others have fallen, but survival is no longer enough. We must prosper and stay ahead of everyone else in order to ensure our future.

The best way to achieve this is to have more Members than anyone else. Just turning up and paying your admittance is no longer enough. We need you to join and to get your friends to join! Walk up to strangers and ask them to become part of our family. We owe it to our parents and all the people who have served this great Club, to ensure its future. That is OUR legacy.

Every day this Club faces obstacles from other Clubs, other sports, other forms of entertainment that make it harder for us to stay on top. Our weapon to overcome these obstacles is our Membership base, and every time someone signs up, it is another bullet in our armory, with which to fight our enemies.

Sure, things change, and now we are known as the Lakers. But nothing can change or extinguish our history, and this is what's important. By joining our Club as a Member, you're making sure that we have just as many GLORY DAYS ahead of us, as there are in our past. Driving past Schintler Reserve now should be enough motivation for not only signing yourself up, but everyone else you know.. Don't let this great Club become just another page in Soccer's history.

This is OUR LEGACY now.

ANGE

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Original Shirts Home/Away	$90
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Available at either of our 2 Pro Shops
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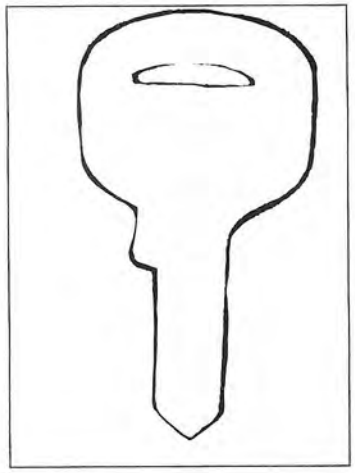
Don't forget, if you're a Member, you are entitled to 10% off all Lakers merchandise!

LUCKY PRIZE !

❋ If your program is stamped with a lucky prize, please present it to the Sports Bar Pro Shop to collect your prize.

DOES YOUR KEY FIT THE LOCK?



Each Week, one lucky program will contain a special key. There will be 13 keys, one for each home game of the season.

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*If you have found a key in your program, please present it to the Sports Bar Pro Shop and register your details.

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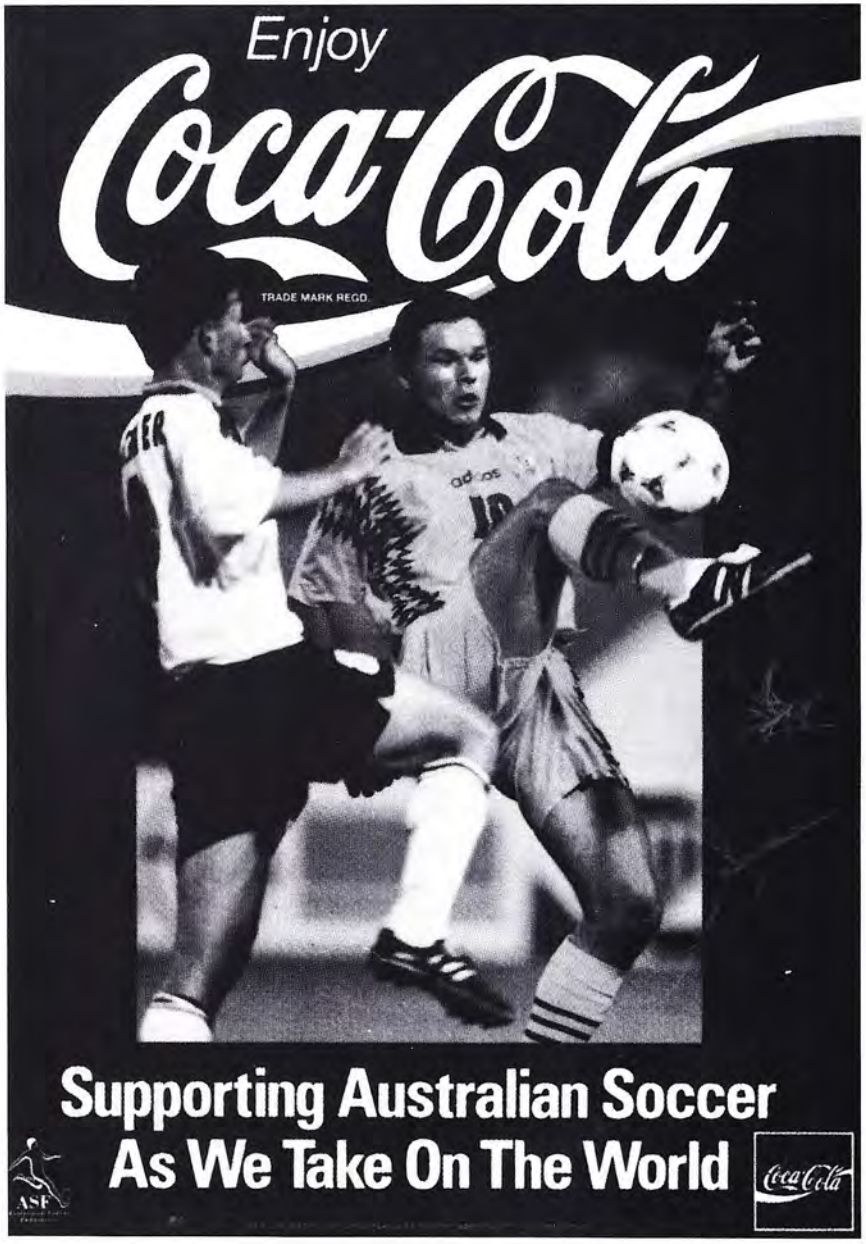

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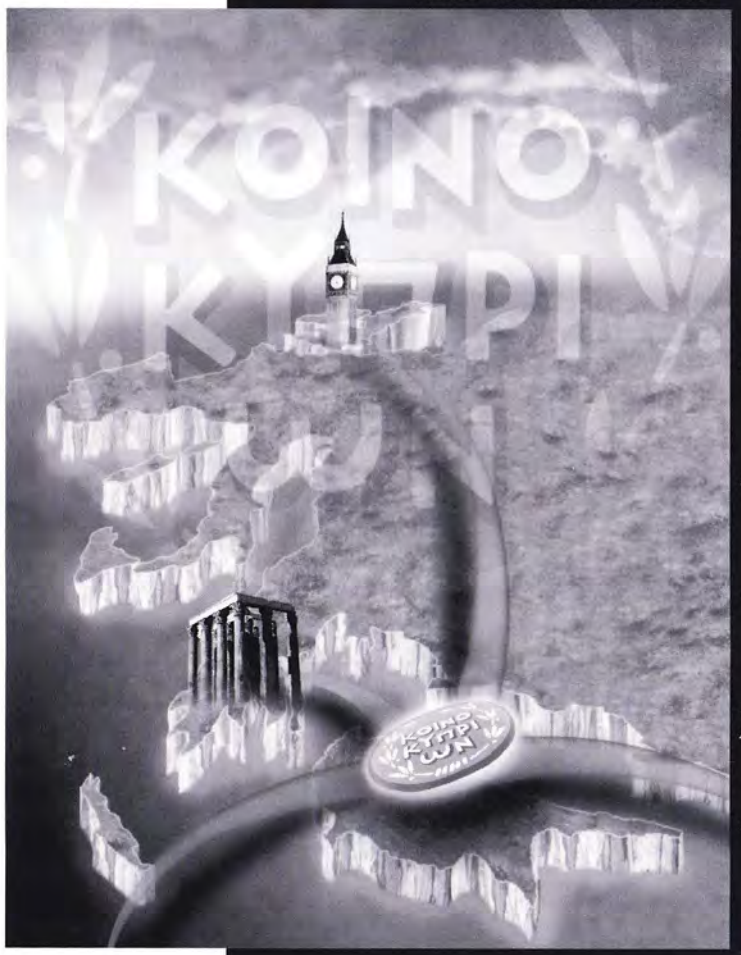

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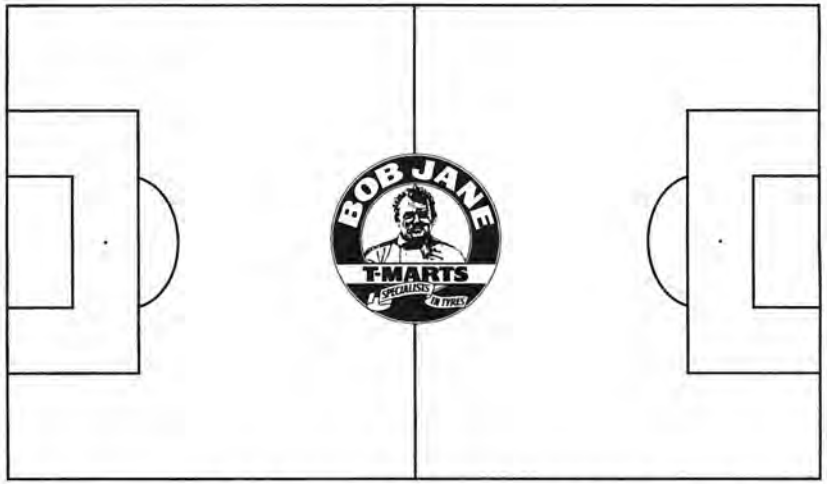

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ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.
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Radio Ethnos

Hey, how's it going? Welcome once again to 'The Mouth At South'. It's been an interesting fortnight in the world of gossip. Here's what's going round.....

⇒ **It's the fight of the year!!!!!!** It's "GOAL OF THE YEAR" !!!! Rumor has it that the players at South Melbourne are in a battle to score the best goal this season and clinch the prestigious honour. Well, we've seen a couple of screamers so far, and if my source is right the battle has only just begun. So stay tuned to Bob Jane Stadium, cause there's more to come...

⇒ **News from a reliable source** of mine tells me that a local South Melbourne pub has more than graciously dedicated a whole wall of memorabilia from this great club. I'm told that these South pieces hang between those of the Collingwood Footy Club and the Aussie Cricket team. Selected items include scarves, posters, photos, flags and the best read, the match day program. Looks like some South fans have found a new place to celebrate after a win. Keep a look out for it !!!!

⇒ **OOH ! AHH ! CANTONA !!!!** Is this what we could be hearing from the terraces of an Australian soccer ground???? A rumour making it's way along the grapevine, is that two A League clubs (1 from Sydney, the other from Melbourne) are in the chase to entice former French and Man U star, Eric Cantona, out of retirement to play in Australia. Could the King be on his way Down Under????? To borrow a phrase from the footy, "**I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT !!!!!!**".

⇒ **Everybody's gone surfin...** Aquatic Centre Lifeguards are sick and tired of dragging so called injured Lakers players out of the wave pool! Have they lost their way to rehab? Are they reliving childhood moments? Or is it simply a ploy to get out of training? Whatever their reasons, there's a lot of disgruntled kids and disgusted Lifeguards.... not to mention a puzzled Coach!

For all the latest news and gossip, listen to **'The Lakers Show'** on 3XY on Friday nights between 7pm to 9pm with Nicholas Tzaferis, Jim Stiliadis & Ange Postecoglou

Also if you have any gossip that may be worth passing on, you can fax it thru to South Melbourne S.C, attn: **'The Mouth' on (03) 9645 9796** or mail it to - **South Melbourne Soccer Club PO Box 1349, South Melbourne 3205**

KEN'S KORNER

During the launch of the Ericsson Cup season about a month ago , General Manager Stefan Kamasz gave a hint as to how the clubs in the future would operate. He stated that the future clubs would be mainly privately run (i.e. Perth) and be part of multi sporting ventures (i.e. Carlton).This would more than likely be beneficial to most soccer fans in Australia as the game would surge in popularity and push itself more into the mainstream of Australian sport (am I using THAT term?), we should be wary of several problems that this may very well cause. Part of David Hill's manifesto when he first came to power in 1995, was that every Australian should feel a sense of belonging to a particular Ericsson Cup club. When Carlton entered the league most people felt that this would at last mean that Melbourne as whole would have a soccer club to support in this league without all the "ethnic" trappings. Now, I don't know about you but unless Melbourne's population has somehow mysteriously shrunk to 5000 you could classify this as a fallacy. Besides it's highly unlikely that a soccer fan who follows say Essendon or Collingwood in the AFL would be in a hurry to Optus Oval to follow the team wearing navy blue. Perhaps attendances may improve somewhat. Collingberg revisited? Watch this space.

Privitisation of soccer clubs can also be seen as positive in the game but it too can pose problems. Whilst the Board/Owners of the club in question will be able to inject cash and professionalism in it, unless the results are overwhelmingly positive they won't keep the diehards happy .Firstly ,because business expertise doesn't necessarily translate to sporting expertise (witness the Collingwood Warriors debacle) and secondly, because the fans/members are listened to but the shareholders have the last say.

Also , multi purpose sporting venues can also create havoc. As you may notice most A-League grounds are mainly used by the AFL/ARL and the surfaces are far from ideal for top quality soccer. You only have to ask Goran to understand the potential dangers of such venues and don't be surprised if you haven't heard the last of it .

Today's visitors , UTS Olympic could very well be experiencing all of the above as they are to put a proposal forward for the Sydney City Rugby League club to buy 51% of its shares. Should it be accepted it could mark the beginning of a new age in Australian club soccer as Mr. Kamasz stressed above. However, it should also be stated that caution must also be exercised or it could also be a flop - and an expensive one at that.

Best of luck to them anyway.

Ken

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PRICES FROM $10,000 TO $50,000
MOST UNDER NEW CAR WARRANTY

SAVE THOUSANDS TODAY

SPECIAL DISCOUNT for South Melbourne Lakers

MEMBERS & ASSOCIATES

- HUNDREDS OF CURRENT & SUPERSEDED
- FORD's
- HOLDEN's
- TOYOTA's
- MITSUBISHI's
- HYUNDAI's
- NISSAN's
- MAZDAS's
- HONDA's
- SEDANS's
- WAGONS's

ALL DISCOUNTED
SAVE THOUSANDS TODAY!!

FREE: PEACE OF MIND BONUS PACK WITH ALL OUR CARS

FREE WITH ALL OUR CARS
4 YEAR UNLIMITED KILOMETRE AUSTRALIA WIDE MECHANICAL WARRANTY
4 YEAR PAINT & INTERIOR FABRIC PROTECTION PLAN
3 YEAR RUST PROTECTION PLAN
162 POINT INSPECTION AND PRE-DELIVERY SERVICE.
24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
PLUS FREE FULL TANK OF PETROL
ALL AT NO EXTRA COST

HUGE DISCOUNTS

COUNTRY CUSTOMERS ..FLY IN..DRIVE IN..BUS IN. BUY A CAR FROM SOUTHERN MOTORS AND WE WILL PAY YOUR TRAVEL COSTS OR PETROL AND WE WILL SUPPLY ONE NIGHTS LUXURY ACCOMMODATION IN DOWN TOWN MELBOURNE. WE HAVE 44 AUTHORISED COUNTRY REPAIRERS THROUGHOUT VIC, NSW & SA. ONE NEAR YOU!!

Southern Motors TWO HUGE LOCATIONS

19 FLEMINGTON ROAD
NORTH MELBOURNE
TEL 24 HOURS (03)
GEORGE KOTSES 9329 8600
MOBILE (AH): 0418 821 411

PHONE 24 HOURS

CNR DANDENONG & WARRIGAL ROADS
OAKLEIGH
TEL 24 HOURS (03)
TIM KOTSES 9530 4100
MOBILE (AH): 0411 104 675

WE TRADE ANYTHING OF VALUE CARS, BOATS, LAND, ect...

WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON ANY DEAL

ALL CARS PRE-OWNED. Special conditions apply to mechanical warranties. Special conditions, interest, credit fees, & charges apply to delayed payment plan. DISCOUNT OFFER QANTAS /SMT